

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Published Since 1877

OKC police chaplain sees blast's tragedies, triumphs

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Jack Poe recalls with precision where he was at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995, because that's when he sensed the ground shudder angrily beneath his feet.

The Oklahoma City police chaplain, who was at home preparing to conduct a funeral later that morning for the parent of a police officer, thought an airplane had crashed nearby.

He raced to his automobile parked outside and turned on the police radio.

Police dispatchers were moving units from all around Oklahoma City into the downtown area. Radio traffic was frantic.

Poe started the car and instinctively headed toward the unfolding crisis.

He was about to learn what had shaken his home, eight and a half miles away.

"Six blocks from the federal building, I was riding on glass and debris. When I got to the building, I knew I had lost friends," he said.

America's worst terrorist attack

had just destroyed the Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people and damaging almost every building in the downtown area.

Within minutes, Poe said, eight Southern Baptist-trained police and fire chaplains were on the scene.

Chaplains went into the building to support rescue crews; ministered to devastated families; and even helped counsel TV crew members affected by the magnitude of the carnage, he pointed out.

"We emptied that building in five gallon buckets. Somebody had to do it; there were 168 families who needed closure," Poe said.

"I get asked, 'Where was God on April 19 at 9:02 a.m.?' Sometimes life just isn't fair; do you understand that?" Poe asked the luncheon crowd.

"You have to see beyond the negative to the positive. Not since Desert Shield has America gotten down on their knees like they did

for Oklahoma City," said Poe, who was asked to pray on worldwide television during a Cable News Network (CNN) satellite broadcast from the site of the blast.

"The crime rate went down. There was no looting," he said.

Poe pointed to three downtown banks evacuated so hurriedly after the blast that many of the tellers' cash drawers were left unsecured.

When bank officials were allowed to return some time later, "not one dime was missing," Poe pointed out.

Poe, who is currently serving as president of the International Conference of Police Chaplains, believes prayer made a difference in the aftermath of the tragedy.

"People with a faith commitment are having an easier time (dealing with the tragedy) than those who don't," he explained.

"We can get better, or we can get bitter. If we get bitter, we are no better than the people who did this," Poe said.



Earl Stegall (left) of Jackson talks with Jack Poe, chaplain of the Oklahoma City Police Department, after Poe's March 5 presentation to the Men's Bible Study noon luncheon at First Church, Jackson. Poe and his wife Phyllis, also a police chaplain in Oklahoma City, also spoke earlier in the day to the church's Women on Mission organization. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Truck stop ministries —

Facing the 7.5-million-driver challenge

By Jerry Pierce

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The TV lounge inside Oklahoma City's TA Truck Stop was almost full.

About 20 people, mostly truck drivers and a few church volunteers, sang joyfully from the Baptist hymnal. A driver from Pennsylvania, a Romanian immigrant named Mircea, wiped away tears as he hummed a heartfelt hymn.

"I love the church," Mircea said following the Sunday chapel service. "We (truck drivers) need that all the time."

For Mircea and other Christian truckers, a place to worship or a chaplain's encouraging words after a grinding day are pressing needs in a trade where fatigue and loneliness plague nearly every driver.

For those who minister to truckers, the challenges are just as great: There are about 2,000 full-service truck stops in the continental United States, and most have no Christian ministry, according to Mike Baker, a 32-year veteran truck driver.

Baker and his wife Sandra — his road partner and fellow driver — are truck stop ministry volunteers with the Mission Service Corps of the Baptist Home Mission Board.

Where truck stop ministries exist, most are affiliated with one of three organizations: Truckers' Christian Chapel Ministries of Dayton, Ohio; Transport for Christ (TFC) of Denver, Pa.; or Truckstop Ministries Inc., Jackson, Ga.

Combined, these ministries operate in more than 125 U.S. truck stops. Baker said it's impossible to know how many other truckers' ministries exist because most are not affiliated with any organization.

Many more are needed, though, and local church involvement is crucial, he said.

Truckers' Christian Chapel Ministries and Truckstop Ministries Inc. rely heavily on local churches. TFC, while using many church volunteers, avoids association with particular churches or denominations.

Representatives of all three ministries, however, said they are committed to winning converts and teaching Christian discipleship. Between destinations, the Bakers spend

many Sundays speaking to Southern Baptist congregations about truck stop missions.

"The public awareness on the local level is just not there," Baker said. "We've got 7.5 million drivers out there. Ninety percent are unsaved and unchurched."

Truckers' Christian Chapel Ministries has about 80 affiliated ministries throughout the country, most of them staffed by Southern Baptists, Baker recounted.

Pierce is a writer in Oklahoma City.

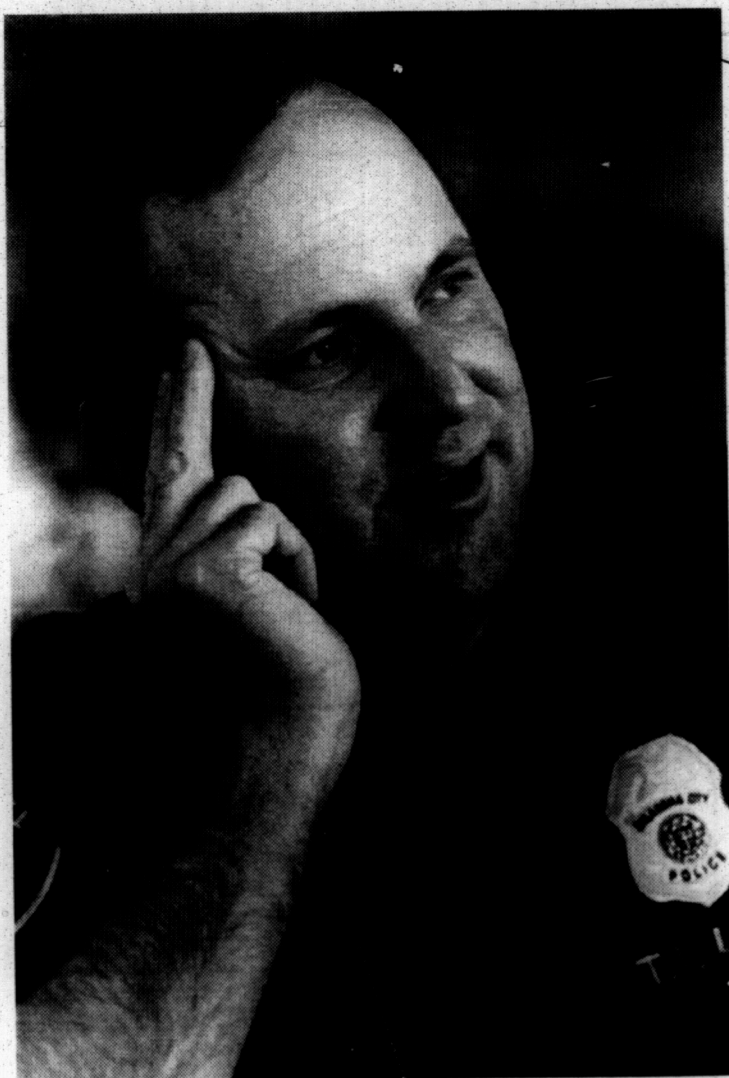
Mississippi meets the challenge

The Jackson Association in Pascagoula operates the "Truckers and Travelers" ministry under the management of Bob Storie. Last year 3,498 people — an average of 291 per month — visited the center. Among those were 703 truckers (91 of them women), 1,400 hitchhikers, 370 homeless people, and 1,803 seeking food, help, etc.

The center seeks to minister to the total person through Bible classes, personal witness, and tape ministry. More than 1,700 Bibles or Scripture portions were distributed.

The rest stop facilities are some of the best. Last year, there were 2,100 showers taken; 2,250 loads of clothes washed, using 800 lbs. of detergent and 30 gallons of bleach. There were 4,900 meals or snacks served with 15,000 cups of coffee. Some 500 blankets were distributed to the homeless; 2,500 lunch bags were given out.

Fifty-five staffers volunteer each month, most of them retired people. They work 4-20 hours each week. Ernest Sadler of Pascagoula is the director of missions for the association.



OKLAHOMA CITY — "Human elements affect me more away from the scene — when I hear a child read a poem on television or a video report is accompanied by music," Police Officer Kent Harville said of his feelings in the aftermath of the 1995 Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Christians versus the lions — again

"Today Christians are more widely persecuted than believers of any other faith," said John Hanford, aide to Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind).

Charles Colson, writing in *Christianity Today* (March 4, 1996) tells of persecution in Sudan in Northeast Africa. Khartoum government troops took children captives and sold them into slavery. Women were raped, men were slaughtered... all because the Muslim government in Sudan made it a crime to convert to Christianity.

In Egypt, Coptic Christians are arrested, businesses destroyed, and church buildings burned. In Saudi Arabia, the government offers reward money for information on secret worship services. Iran's government assassinated three evangelical pastors last year. Islam-inspired persecution of Christians is on a rampage.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government refuses to acknowledge the persecution is taking place and we continue to give foreign aid to

many of the offending countries. Our government seems to be caught up in an anti-Christian backlash and will not accuse Islamic-dominated governments of any wrongdoing.

The *Voice of the Martyrs* newspaper, founded by Richard Wurmbrand, tells of persecution continuing toward Vietnamese Christians. Dinh Trung, Christian witness, is in prison now, accused of "explaining the good news."

A North Korean believer hid his Bible for 15 years and lives in fear of having it confiscated and being sent to prison. In northern Thailand, Karen Christian refugees may yet be returned to Burma to face an unfriendly government.

Can these Muslim-led inquisitors, acting with impunity, continue to raid Christian homes and churches while Christian America remains silent? Or is this just more election-year hype, religious fervor, and evangelical raving?

Michel Horowitz of the Hudson Institute has collected evidence of wide-spread persecution in Africa

and the Middle East. Ask the Serbs or even the Muslims in Bosnia if there is such a thing as religious persecution.

Missionaries have declared the repression of Christians in China is the greatest since the 1970s.

Tom Strode in a Baptist Press release (Feb. 22, 1996) said some American business interests are supportive of or at least neutral in the persecution of Christians by repressive foreign governments.

Nina Shea, director of Freedom House, says there is little evidence that economic progress with the U.S. in a country with a repressive regime results in more human rights or religious freedom. China and Vietnam are cited as two prime examples.

Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has suggested that the trade status aid to foreign governments be connected to the government's treatment of religious adherents.

Persecution is an ugly, unpopular issue but we best address it now rather than when they come for us.



THE FRAGMENTS

Watch and pray

Recently in the Kansas House of Representatives, Rev. Joe Wright offered a prayer. Among other things he prayed, "We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it moral pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism."

"We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare."

"We have killed our unborn and

called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem. We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment..."

The House was in shock. One representative walked out, another sat down in protest. It seems Mr. Wright told the Lord more than the House wanted him to know. — GH

Guest opinion...

Christianity's impact on society perceived positive, Barna poll says

By Mark Wingfield

GLENDAL, Calif. (ABP) — Americans view Christianity as having a more positive impact on society than other religious traditions, according to a new poll by the Barna Research Group.

Among those surveyed, 85% said they perceive Christianity as exerting a positive influence on society, while only 4% said they think Christianity creates a negative influence. Another 6% said they didn't know.

The next-highest rating was given to Judaism, with 58% saying Jews have a positive influence on American society. Another 15% said Jews create a negative influence, while 23% said they didn't know.

Mormonism ranked third, with 43% citing a positive influence by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Another 27% said Mormons create a negative influence, while 26% said they didn't know.

Among groups for which Americans are more likely to

express a negative opinion than a positive opinion: Muslims, Scientologists, Buddhists, and atheists.

Muslims are perceived by 33% of the general population as having a negative influence on society, while only 28% view Muslims positively. Another 35% said they didn't know what to think about Muslim influence.

Scientologists are perceived negatively by 39% of those surveyed, with only 21% expressing a positive image of the group founded by L. Ron Hubbard. Another 38% said they didn't know how to assess the influence of Scientologists.

Buddhists got a 33% negative rating, compared to a 29% positive rating. Another 35% said they didn't have an opinion.

The American public reserves its most negative assessment for atheists, however. Of those surveyed, 61% said atheists exert a negative influence on society while only 14% rated atheism positively. Another 22% said they

were undecided on the influence of atheists.

"While many Americans are not practicing Christians, they retain some identity with the Christian faith and remain protective of it," said George Barna, president of Barna Research Group. "They are suspicious of other faith groups because they are unknown but different, and we are generally uncomfortable with those who are not just like us."

On a related note, the survey also asked American adults what they thought should be the relationship between Catholics and Protestants. Nearly 80% said they believe Catholics and Protestants should put aside their doctrinal differences and work together to address the social, economic, and spiritual needs of the culture. Only 4% said they believe the issues dividing Catholics and Protestants cannot be resolved.

Wingfield is interim editor, *Kentucky Western Recorder*.

Pontotoc case hits court

CHICAGO (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could set a precedent for religious freedom in the workplace. The case involves a woman who was fired from her job at a company that manufactures religious books and materials. She claims that her firing was based on her religious beliefs. The Supreme Court will hear the case in the fall.

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MBCB Executive Committee meets...

Approves new employees, hears Clarke College report

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Executive Committee, meeting March 7 in Jackson, promoted staffers, hired a new staffer, and heard reports concerning the sale of the Clarke College property and the development of a retirement facility.

Staff changes include the promotion of Barri A. Shirley to replace retiring Jennings Orr as MBCB administrative assistant for business. Shirley has served for the past two years as director of accounting and personnel services.

Shelia (Mrs. Stan) Stanford is the new Acteens consultant in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). She replaces Jan Cossitt, who is now general consultant in WMU.

Eugene Dobbs, MBCB administrative assistant for ministry received a new title: executive assistant.

Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, said Dobbs' new title reflects additional supervisory responsibilities and designates Dobbs as being in charge of MBCB activities when Causey is away.

The Executive Committee affirmed a Mississippi Baptist Convention-appointed special committee plan concerning the sale of the campus of Clarke College, the former Baptist-owned junior college in Newton.

The committee, charged with the sale of the property, is contracting with Three Springs, Inc., a Huntsville, Ala., corporation, for a lease-purchase agreement for the core campus and 135 acres north of Highway 80.

Three Springs will use the campus as a residential treatment center and boarding school for troubled children, primarily abused and neglected, between the ages of 10 and 17.

The contract's option period runs from March-May 1, 1996, for \$15,000.

Larry Otis, a Tupelo businessman chairing the special committee, told the Executive Committee that he anticipates a two-year lease will be signed for \$156,000 per year.

After those two years, he said, half of that amount will go toward the purchase price of \$1,022,000.

Otis said the organization is already making renovations to the kitchen, former president's home, and in the girls' dorm, where asbestos is being removed.

While MBCB retains the property, the corporation will reimburse the board for insurance costs, Otis pointed out.

The Clarke College alumni group gets a house and one-acre parcel for alumni activities, he said, and MBCB will retain historical materials still in place on the campus, such as in the library.

Otis said that conditions for the group to operate include zoning approval from the City of Newton, and a certificate of need (CON) from the State of Mississippi for mental health treatment beds. Should the state Legislature not approve the certificate of need, the group could operate strictly as a boarding school, Otis said.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention had earlier approved piece-by-piece sale of the Clarke property, following several failed attempts at purchase by other groups. Said Otis, "When we deal with God's timetable, things are right."

Causey reported that a plan for MBCB and the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center to jointly build and operate a continuing care retirement center is still on track.

Both parties have agreed in principle to the project and working relationships are being finalized, Causey said.

The Executive Committee approved a check totaling \$97,065.81 for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes. MBCB had previously sent to the SBC a check for \$152,464.19, which is 25% of the "challenge" portion of the state's 1995 Cooperative Program budget.

A total of \$609,856.76 was given over the 1995 budget of \$23,280,984. That challenge amount was voted by convention messengers in 1994 to be distributed:

- 50% to Christian higher education in Mississippi;
- 25% to SBC causes; and
- 25% to MBCB work.

The additional SBC gift of \$97,065.81 puts the total challenge gift to the SBC at \$249,530.

Causey noted that the latest gift "finalizes the commitment made at the Mississippi Baptist Convention to assume financial support of Home Mission Board (HMB)-related work in Mississippi."

Mississippi Baptist Convention messengers in November 1995 arranged for HMB to retain approximately \$250,000 which would have been returned to Mis-

issippi to fund HMB-related operations in the state.

Instead, the Mississippi Baptist Convention will self-fund those personnel and projects, allowing HMB to use their money in pioneer mission areas.

The remainder of MBCB-retained challenge funds — \$55,398.38, — will go toward funding the Partnership Mission Office headed by Bill Hardy.

The Executive Committee approved an additional \$55,601.62 to totally fund the office which had previously been funded through designated gifts.

Current Mississippi Baptist mission partnerships are being conducted with Baptists in the state of Colorado and the countries of Honduras and Venezuela.

In other business, the Executive Committee approved an increase in mileage allowance from \$.21 to \$.31 per mile for state convention committee members, board members, and others required to drive only occasionally on MBCB business.

The committee approved a plan for use of credit cards at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian. Beginning in April, persons making reservations for, or paying bills at Gulfshore, may use MasterCard or Visa credit cards.

Also, the Executive Committee approved purchase of \$10,200 in computerized production equipment for **The Baptist Record**, newsjournal of Mississippi Baptists.

The Executive Committee okayed purchase of two church sites utilizing Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering funds.

They granted \$50,000 for Fellowship Church, Starkville, and \$44,000 for property in Hancock County on Kiln-Delisle Road.

A proposal has been made to start a church on the Hancock County site in one to two years.

Also, the Executive Committee granted study leave to David Michel, director of the MBCB Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department.

Michel will study at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada), and conduct volunteer stewardship work in Colorado.

The committee also replaced board member Gordon Stone who resigned, with Anthony Mitchell of Benton-Tippah Association.

(See related article on Page 4)

WMU Annual Meeting

March 18-19

Alta Woods Church, Jackson

Theme: "It's Worth the Journey"

March 18

"It's Worth the Journey for our Homeland"

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| 1:45 p.m. | Pre-session music: | Carol Sparkman, Bobbie Butler,
Lisa Leavell, Cindy Coon, Eva Hart
Sandra Nash |
| 2:00 p.m. | Call to order | |
| | Music | |
| | Welcome | Frank Thomas |
| | Prayer | Pattie Dent |
| | Our Homeland | |
| | Commitment | Esther Burroughs |
| | Involvement | Joyce Mitchell |
| | Prayer | Randy Sprinkle |
| | Special music | Lisa Leavell & Cindy Coon |
| | Spotlight on Home Missions | |
| | Mississippi Gulf Coast | Dottie Williamson |
| | North Delta Association | M.C. & Helen Johnson |
| | Brantley Center, New Orleans | Kay Bennett |
| | Parchman | Charles Jones |
| | Prayer | Paul Harrell |

"It's Worth the Journey for our Children"

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 6:15 p.m. | Pre-session music: | MC Chamber Choir,
Richard Joiner, director
Sandra Nash |
| 6:30 p.m. | Call to order | |
| | Music | |
| | Prayer | Eddie Hamilton |
| | Our Children | |
| | Commitment | Esther Burroughs |
| | Involvement | Joyce Mitchell |
| | Prayer | MC Choir |
| | Spotlight on our children | |
| | Bolivia | Acteen Activators |
| | Clinton | Andy White |
| | Brandon | Paula Boatner |
| | Jackson | Ronny Robinson |
| | Recognition of Parents of missionaries | |
| | Music | |
| | Offertory Prayer | Wilda Fancher |
| | Offertory | |
| | Prayer | Don Wilson |

March 19

"It's Worth the Journey for our World"

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 9:15 a.m. | Pre-session music: | MC Bell Choir,
Carol Sparkman, director
Sandra Nash |
| 9:30 a.m. | Call to order | |
| | Music | |
| | Prayer | Eugene Dobbs |
| | Business Session | |
| | Our World | |
| | Commitment | Esther Burroughs |
| | Involvement | Joyce Mitchell |
| | Prayer | Randy Sprinkle |
| | Special music | Lisa Leavell & Cindy Coon |
| | Spotlight on our World | |
| | Liberia | Margaret Fairburn |
| | International Ministry | Diana Bridges |
| | Venezuela | Patsy Davis |
| | Music | |
| | Mississippi WMU — Our Part of the World | |
| | Choral Benediction | Lisa Leavell & Cindy Coon |

SBC registered on card

Registration cards for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, La., on June 11-13, 1996, are available from the office of Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Messengers representing Mississippi Baptist churches must obtain these cards in order to be able to vote on the floor of the convention. They will be available until the day of the convention, while the supply lasts.

For more information, or to obtain messenger cards, call (800) 748-1651, or (601) 968-3800, ext. 3801; or write the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Lt. Governor's pastor, church minister in wake of accident

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Alan Kilgore, pastor of First Church, Batesville, got the call late on the evening of Feb. 27 that every pastor dreads.

A member of his church had been seriously injured in an auto accident; medical condition unknown.

It didn't matter to Kilgore that this call was about Mississippi's second-most powerful politician.

He only knew he had to rush across town to be with the family of Lieutenant Governor Ronnie Musgrove, a faithful Christian

husband and father involved in almost every aspect of his church's life.

Musgrove and his state trooper-driver, Michael Wilkie of Batesville, had been broadsided by Betty Frizzell of Crystal Springs at about 6:45 that evening at the intersection of Mississippi Highways 13 and 28 in rural Simpson County.

The Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol is investigating the accident. No charges have been filed.

"I got a call at about 9 p.m.

from our Sunday night pianist, whose husband works in the Batesville district of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. She told me about the accident, and I went over to the the Musgroves' house," Kilgore said.

Kilgore found Musgrove's wife Melanie preparing to leave for Jackson, where her husband was being transferred to University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) from the local hospital in Magee.

Kilgore and his wife sped to Jackson, spending the night at UMC while the lieutenant governor underwent emergency surgery for internal injuries.

"We didn't get to see him that night, but we visited the next morning and then returned to Batesville," he said.

Wilkie was released from UMC on March 4 and returned to his home in Batesville. Musgrove was released Friday, March 8;

Frizzell was released earlier in the week.

Musgrove, an attorney and former state legislator, was elected to the lieutenant governor's office in November 1995 and took the oath of office in early January of this year.

He serves as deacon at First Church, Batesville, and also sings in the choir and teaches youth Sunday School.

Musgrove was chairman of the pastor search committee that two years ago called Kilgore to First Church.

"I don't know one negative thing about Ronnie. He's an excellent family man; he led both of his children to the Lord in their home," Kilgore said.

The Musgroves have two children: Jordan, 10, and Carmen Rae, 7. They are being cared for in Batesville by their maternal grandmother, who lives nearby.

Kilgore related how Jordan approached him at prayer meeting the evening after the accident. With everyone around him caught up in the crisis of the moment, Jordan had not yet seen his father.

"He walked up to me and

asked, 'Is my daddy going to be all right?' I gathered up Jordan and his sister and took them to my office. We talked and I told them their daddy was going to be okay," Kilgore said.

Jordan and Carmen Rae were reunited with their father at UMC during the weekend of March 9-10.

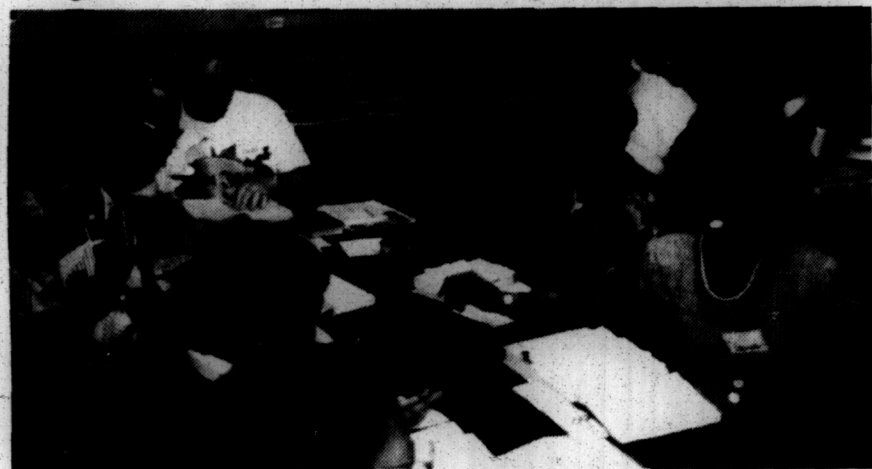
Kilgore said the church has rallied around the Musgroves.

"They are loved in this community. They know that if they need anything, they'll have it," he said.

"If I could emphasize anything about Ronnie, it would be his strong moral character and his faithfulness to his church. We are fortunate to have him as our lieutenant governor," Kilgore pointed out.

Although he said Musgrove has not discussed his political future with him, Kilgore predicted, "It would surprise me if he was anything but a good Christian governor some day."

Cards and letters can be sent to Musgrove in care of the lieutenant governor's office, P.O. 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.



Mt. Olive MasterLife workshop

Mt. Olive Church, Hattiesburg, recently hosted a MasterLife Workshop. Thirty participants in the workshop received over 28 hours of basic discipleship training over the course of two weekends. Larry Goff (above photo, far right), Baptist Student Union director at Jones County Junior College, and John Temple, pastor of First Church, Madison, co-led the workshop. Facilitators were: Linda Goff of Ellisville; Terry Martinaz (top photo, second from left), his wife, and Conner Brown, all of Madison; and John Scott, Black Work Coordinator in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. The training event was sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, directed by Mose Dangerfield; the Baptist Sunday School Board's MasterLife program, coordinated by David Carter; Lebanon Association, George Berger, director of missions; and the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, under the direction of Don Wilson. Arthur Siggers is pastor of Mt. Olive Church.

MBCB Executive Committee approves two staff promotions, one new staffer

In its meeting on March 7, the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) promoted Barri Shirley to administrative assistant for business.

Shelia Stanford was employed as Acteens consultant in the Woman's Missionary Union, and Eugene Dobbs received a new title.

Shirley, 26, replaces Jennings Orr as administrative assistant for business when Orr retires at the end of March. Shirley has served for the past two years as director of accounting and personnel services.

A native of Orlando, Fla., Shirley is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson. He is a Certi-

fied Public Accountant.

Prior to his employment with MBCB, he worked as an auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick from 1992-93. From 1989-91, he worked for the Mississippi Bankers' Association as insurance administrator/community education coordinator.

Shirley and his wife Tammy have two children, Christian and Callie. They are members of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, where Shirley serves as a deacon.

Stanford, 34, is a native of Picayune. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Her previous places of employ-

ment include teaching positions in Clinton, Picayune, and Yazoo City. She also served as a youth minister at First Church, Picayune.

She and her husband Stan are members of First Church, Clinton.

Dobbs, 63, has taken a new title, that of executive assistant. His previous title was administrative assistant for ministry.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the convention board, said the new title reflects additional supervisory responsibilities and designates Dobbs as being in charge of board activities when Causey is away.

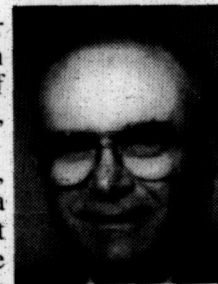
(See full Executive Committee report on Page 3.)



Shirley



Stanford



Dobbs

Mississippi's Jan./Feb. gifts through CP up over 1995

Mississippi Baptists have given \$4,395,100 through the Cooperative Program in the first two months of 1996, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

January giving was \$2,586,166 and February totaled \$1,808,934, making this year's giving \$325,924 more than that given in the same period of 1995.

The two-month total is \$514,936, or 13.27% more than the pro rata budget. The pro rata budget is figured by taking the total budget of \$23,280,984, dividing by 12 and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Gifts from the nearly 2,000 participating Mississippi Baptist churches go toward leadership training for the churches, child care, Christian higher education, and support of home and foreign missionaries.

February SBC CP takes dip

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts for the month of February totaled \$12,103,599, down 2.68% from the previous year's month, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The \$12,103,599 for February 1996 compares to \$12,437,257 for February 1995, or a decrease of \$333,658.

For the five months of the SBC fiscal year, October through February, the CP total is \$60,319,676, compared to \$60,878,340 during the same period a year ago, a .92% decrease, or \$558,663.

However, the year-to-date CP total is above the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation budget requirement — \$59,012,136 — for that period, or 2.22% over the budget. The monthly budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,802,427, thus the February 1996 figure is 2.55% above the budget.

Designated gifts rose more than \$7.2 million in February over the previous year's February: \$43,986,895 compared to \$36,727,593, or a 19.77% increase. Year-to-date designated giving is up more than \$5.7 million compared to the same period the previous year: \$69,580,000 compared to \$63,866,420, or an 8.95% increase.

Vicksburg gambling conference will focus on Christian response

A conference spotlighting the Christian response to gambling will be held March 19-20, 1996, at First Church, Vicksburg.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19 and conclude at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20.

The conference, "Gambling: The Christian's Response," will feature ethicist Larry Braidfoot of Hattiesburg, counselor Barry Click of Brandon, and psychologist John Eades of Mobile, Ala.

Other program leaders include: — Elizabeth K. Holmes of Clinton, consultant for family and women's issues for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC).

— Neron Smith of Raymond, missions consultant in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

— Howard Smith of Vicksburg, Warren Association director of missions.

— Dale Little of Natchez, Adams-Union Association director of missions.

— Jim Hess of Vicksburg, minister of music at First Church, Vicksburg.

— Paul G. Jones II of Clinton, CAC executive director.

Braidfoot is an attorney, ethicist, and author of **Gambling: A Deadly Game**. He will speak on "Ethics/Theology of Gambling: Our Biblical Roots."

Click is director of the Samaritan Counseling Center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He will speak on "The Process of Healing: Personal and Professional."

Eades, director of chemical dependency services at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, is a recovering addicted gambler.

He will speak on "What I Have Learned About Gambling" and "Gambling: The Gambler and Family."

The conference is designed for people who want to become better informed on the problems associated with gambling and learn of ministry options.

The conference will also include development of strategies for future action related to gambling.

Child care will be provided on Tuesday evening for infants through grade six.

The only cost connected with the conference is \$6 per person for the Wednesday noon meal.

Deadline for reservations is Monday, March 18. Reservations should be made by contacting Warren Association, 3040-B Indiana Avenue, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

For more information, contact Warren Association at (601) 638-2142.

Thursday, March 14, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



State Youth Four-Part Festival held

Crossgates Church, Brandon, hosted the State Youth Four Part Music Festival on Feb. 24. Twenty-nine students, grades 10-12, competed in three categories: vocal, keyboard, and instrumental. (The fourth category, conducting, had no entrants.) Facilitating the festival were (left to right): judges, Ed Ludlow of Blue Mountain College, Bonnie Blu Williams of Mississippi College (MC); keyboard coordinator Dot Pray of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Church Music Department; judges, Lewis Oswald of MC, June Meyer of Blue Mountain College, and Janet and Ralph Taylor of MC. Graham Smith (right), director of the MBCB Church Music Department, was adjudication leader. Not pictured are judges Howard Keever and Martin Cuellar of William Carey College.

First person...

How Pearl River County defeated the liquor referendum

By Bob Rogers

On Nov. 7, 1995, Pearl River County soundly defeated a referendum on the legalization of hard liquor by 58%.

In August 1995, Arlis Grice, pastor of Goodyear Church in Picayune, called a meeting of concerned ministers, who organized 29 Southern Baptist, Missionary Baptist, and charismatic churches into Citizens United for a Better Society (CUBS) to fight the proposed liquor referendum.

Paul Jones, director of the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, spoke to an early CUBS meeting and provided invaluable suggestions. The CAC also printed 6,000 brochures for CUBS at cost.

CUBS launched a three-phased plan to defeat liquor, designed to peak at the time of the election.

Phase 1 began in September by mailing to over 80 churches a bi-weekly newsletter, **Alcohol Alert!**, to be photocopied and inserted in Sunday bulletins. It included a financial report with an updated list of churches which contributed to CUBS. Volunteers then covered the county with 4,500 yard signs.

Phase 2, in October, began weekly ads in the Picayune

and Poplarville newspapers, citing statistics on alcohol-related teen deaths. Phase 2 also included the display of two wrecked automobiles with a sign which read, "The end of the brewer's art."

On Oct. 22, someone burned the wrecked car which had been displayed by CUBS supporters at Union Church in the Caesar Community near Picayune. The vandalism was covered by newspapers and television stations in Biloxi and Hattiesburg, and only hurt the cause of those who did it.

Phase 3 included public rallies and intense advertising. Quarter-page ads were run in the Picayune newspaper. One ad said, "Keeping liquor out welcomes families in."

A direct mailing was sent to over 12,000 homes. The mailing, entitled "Liquor Doesn't Make Cents," showed how \$1 million in liquor sales only generates \$12,500 in city sales tax, and zero money in county revenue. This revenue was contrasted with statistics on the negative effects of alcohol.



Rogers

A radio spot, dramatizing crime in New Orleans and encouraging voters to vote "dry," began airing one week before the election. It ran 10 times a day on a Picayune radio station and three times a day on a Poplarville station.

Two anti-alcohol rallies were attended by about 500 people in Picayune on Oct. 29; and at First Church, Poplarville, on Nov. 5. Biloxi and Hattiesburg television stations gave the Poplarville rally positive coverage.

On Nov. 7, the county voted 8,240 against liquor and 5,862 for liquor. Only six of the 32 precincts went for liquor, and three of those were very close. The Caesar precinct, where the car had been torched, voted 443 to 175 against liquor.

The editor of the Picayune newspaper, analyzing the election, said, "Many places... wish they could turn the clock back and reduce the level of alcohol availability... it may be that the places that kept a lid on it will turn out to be not so dumb after all."

The editor was right, thanks to determined Christians — and God, who decided to intervene, in answer to prayers.

Rogers is pastor, First Church, Poplarville, and served as CUBS publicity chairman.

Honduras, Colorado ask for commitment

By Bill Hardy

The partnership with Honduras offers the unusual opportunity to establish a personal relationship between a church/association in Honduras with a church/association in Mississippi.

Honduran leaders want to establish 12 new congregations in 1996 and 1997. They feel unable to do this alone and are asking for our help.

Their idea is that a Mississippi church will adopt a place Honduran leaders designate, then perform all the requested projects over a two-year period, helping to build a vibrant, meaningful, New Testament congregation. This "adoption" may include evangelistic projects, discipling events, construction, etc.

Meanwhile, the latest requests from Colorado include the following:

Project R0046: First Southern Baptist Church of Yuma, Colo., is seeking a Mission Service Corps volunteer to serve two years as minister of education.

Project P0047: Ponderosa Baptist Assembly seeks donation and installation of 2,618 yards of carpet to replace worn-out areas.

Project M0048: First Baptist Church of Nucla, Colo., seeks a reliable car for use by a bi-vocational pastor. The director of missions recommends this request as worthy of help.

For information on either of these partnerships, contact the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Hardy is director, Partnership Missions, MBCB.

Alcorn, Lee, Lamar associations to sponsor CML workshops March 23

Three associations will host Church Media Library conferences on March 23.

Alcorn Association will sponsor a conference led by Pat Brown, consultant with the Church Media Library Program of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville. She will teach from the Church Media Library Series book **Selecting Media**, by Jacquelyn Anderson.

A special emphasis on selecting and promoting media for preschoolers, their parents, and leaders will be a part of the program.

The Alcorn Association offices in Corinth will be the location of the study. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. General aspects of selecting media will be discussed from 9:30-10:50, with the preschool emphasis at 11 a.m. Complimentary lunch will be

served at 11:45 and the conference continues from 12:30-1:30 with ideas for promoting media.

Preschool leaders and parents are invited to attend. Area media library workers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to earn study course credit.

Reservations are needed. For more information, call Alcorn Association at (601) 286-8215.

First Church, Tupelo will be the site of a meeting hosted by Lee Association from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Eva Nell Hunter will teach "Using Sears Subject Heading" and "Using the Dewey Decimal Classification System" for church media librarians.

For over 30 years Hunter has directed the Media Library of Central Church, Decatur, Ala. A retired school teacher, she now leads conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and

Glorieta (N.M.) assemblies. National Church Media Library seminars, and local and associational media workshops as an approved BSSB Church Media Library conference leader.

For more information contact the Lee Association office at (601) 566-1700.

Lamar Association will also host a Church Media Library workshop from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at its conference center on Hwy. 589 in Hattiesburg.

Peggy Tacon from Mobile, Ala., also an approved BSSB Church Media Library conference leader, will teach "Care and Repair of Books."

All church librarians are encouraged to attend. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and drink will be provided. For more information, call Lamar Association at (601) 268-7334.

capsules

ANNUITY BOARD ASSETS TOP \$5 BILLION: DALLAS (BP)

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention closed its 78th year of operations with assets of \$5.173 billion after paying a record \$192.56 million in retirement and relief benefits. Trustees met in Dallas in regular session Feb. 26-27 and were told total earnings in 1995 were almost \$794 million, which made possible a permanent 5% increase in benefits on Jan. 1, 1996, for all annuitants with benefits established for five years or longer. Trustees also heard a report from President Paul W. Howell that the SBC Executive Committee had responded with positive action on the request by Annuity Board trustees to approve creation of two new business trusts. The trusts could be used to implement a mechanism for using registered mutual funds for Annuity Board investment activities. Trustees are not expected to take final action to convert investment funds to registered mutual funds before the first quarter in 1997. In addition to its relief program, the Annuity Board paid \$962,250 during 1995 in \$50-a-month supplements to annuitants with very low monthly benefits. At year end, there were 1,711 people receiving the special gifts from the board's Adopt An Annuitant Program, funded by designated gifts.

SUPREME COURT REFUSES CROSS-BURNING CASE: WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court left standing a Florida law that makes it a crime to burn a cross on someone else's property. Acting Feb. 26, the court turned away without comment arguments by a Jacksonville defendant that the law violates free-speech rights. The case involved Thomas Davis, a teenager charged with erecting a cross on the property of Atef Abdul-Nour in Jacksonville in 1993 and setting it on fire. Now Davis can be prosecuted under Florida law. Last year, the Florida Supreme Court upheld the law, ruling cross burning is not protected speech but "one of the most virulent forms of threats of violence."

VOUCHER OPPONENTS DEFEAT PROCEDURE TO END DEBATE: WASHINGTON (ABP) — A vote on a District of Columbia appropriations bill is being held up in the U.S. Senate as partisans debate a controversial provision offering publicly funded vouchers for students at private and parochial schools. Senators opposed to tuition vouchers won two votes in three days. Supporters of the D.C. spending measure fell six votes shy of the 60 votes needed to cut off debate on a \$5 billion D.C. funding bill Feb. 27. A second motion to cut off debate Feb. 29 was defeated 52-42. The bill contains what opponents say would be the first federally funded private-school-voucher program in the nation's history. The D.C.'s chief financial officer has said the district government is on the verge of running out of money and must get an appropriations bill passed immediately.

GRAHAMS TO RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Evangelist Billy Graham and his wife Ruth will receive the Congressional Medal of Honor in a joint session of Congress May 2. President Clinton signed a bill authorizing the award Feb. 13. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the measure Jan. 23 followed by the Senate's approval Feb. 1. Members of Congress noted that Graham's messages have been heard by more than 100 million people in person and 2 billion people on television. "Ruth and Billy Graham stand as shining examples of faith, family, morality, and charity," said Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C. The text of the measure states, "Billy Graham, throughout his 76 years of life and his 52-year marriage to Ruth Graham, has exemplified the highest ideals of teaching, counseling, ethics, charity, faith, and family."

BROADMAN & HOLMAN MORE THAN PUBLISHER OF BIBLES: NASHVILLE (BP) — Broadman & Holman's (B&H) 1995 best-selling products ranged from *Experiencing God* (book and Bible) to "Christy" videos to a pocket Bible, four-color certificates for special occasions, and Remembrance communion cups and wafers. The very breadth of items produced and distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board's trade publishing group is one dimension that sets B&H apart. Kirk Freeman, director of sales and marketing for B&H, acknowledged the difficulties sometimes presented by the wide range of products, but emphasized the opportunity they provide in coming up with innovations to meet needs. The premier 1996 B&H book release is *Breaking Through* by Wellington Boone, a popular speaker with the Promise Keepers men's ministry. In the area of Christian videos, B&H is now the largest distributor. The "Secret Adventures" series for children was developed by B&H in conjunction with MTM. A series for preschoolers, "The Storybook Tree," is being produced by B&H.

EVANGELISTS TO WORK WITH FOREIGN MISSION BOARD: At the annual planning meeting in New Orleans for the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) the officers accepted several goals for the future. One of these goals is to work with the Foreign Mission Board on Partnership Evangelism Projects in various countries of the world. Tom Cox, president of COSBE, recently met with a team to work in evangelistic meetings in connection with the Baptist World Alliance through the year 2000. The Conference is working with the Home Mission Board and plans for special projects with them in the future.

Journeymen ready for rigors of foreign mission service

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Just get me out of Africa," thought Tim Motis as his plane landed.

It was the last layover in Africa during his flight from Sierra Leone to the United States. At the time — the summer of 1990 — his parents were missionaries to Liberia. "When we touched down, I thought, 'Oh no, we're not out of Africa yet. What if something else happens?'" Motis recalled.

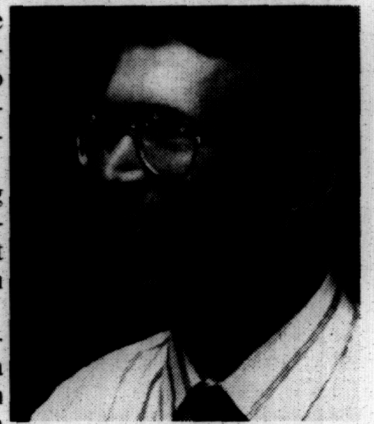
Plenty already had. As Liberia's civil war had worsened that summer, the Motis family had tried to evacuate through bordering Sierra Leone. At the border, first they were held by Liberian government troops, then captured by rebel forces. The family was detained a week in several locations before being allowed to leave the country.

Six years after that ordeal, Motis is heading back to Africa — this time to do agricultural work as a journeyman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission

Board. Journeymen are single college graduates under age 30 who work two years overseas with career missionaries.

Motis was among 30 journeymen commissioned Feb. 18 at Gayton Church in Richmond, Va.

During their commissioning service, a group of journeymen built a pyramid from cardboard blocks covered in white paper. The boxes represented spiritual building blocks.



Journeyman Tim Motis

Musicians affirm common ground despite differing worship styles

LARGO, Fla. (BP) — Despite the differences in worship styles and musical preferences of the congregations they serve, two Southern Baptist music ministers say they support each other's ministry and find common ground in the greater goal they share.

Randy Elrod of First Indian Rocks, Largo, Fla., and Jim Ferguson of First Church, St. Petersburg, work as ministers of music only miles apart in the Suncoast Association. But the differences in the worship styles they use might lead some to conclude there is more distance between them than mere geography.

The variety of their approaches, however, has not driven a wedge between the two men nor has it separated them from other music ministry colleagues in their association and state, they said.

Ferguson, whose church has a tradition of classical music "with some southern gospel and a few spirituals," said he has noticed over the years that "uniquely, music ministers have always found common ground. In our association, we never had difficulty working together, finding music that appealed to us collectively."

"Regardless of the theological questions about which we might have different convictions, the worship times we have planned together have always been extremely positive experiences. Quite frankly, I'm proud of that. I'm glad the Lord has allowed us to find common ground through worship and music."

Although First Church in St. Petersburg has undergone a metamorphosis toward more contemporary anthems, the worship style and music is unlike that of First Indian Rocks where Elrod plans "very contemporary" services without hymnals, but with a praise team and live rhythm band.

Ferguson, who uses a hymnal and continues to include some traditional anthems in worship, serves a congregation that prefers a style some musicians would describe as "blended" — includ-

ing both traditional and contemporary elements.

Elrod, in contrast, plans "seeker-friendly" services that may include movie clips, or other creative arts to provide a themed service.

Common Ground is an emphasis of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Music Department. A series of Common Ground wor-

ship gatherings, which focus on diversity in worship styles and musical tastes as well as the common elements of faith and worship within the SBC, began in 1995 in Riverside, Calif. Upcoming Common Ground worship gatherings are scheduled for April 15-17 in Jackson; Sept. 29-Oct. 1 in Atlanta; and April 17-19, 1997, in Harrisburg, Pa.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can I be upbeat when bad things (often minor) happen to me?

Bad things happen to us; it's a part of life. We know that, but it gets frustrating when minor problems keep coming up. To stay upbeat, talk about your problems but don't whine. By getting these bad things out in the open, you can look at them more realistically and understand what is eating away at you. Remember that you cannot control circumstances but you can control your reaction to circumstances. Song of Solomon 2:15 (NIV) states, "Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom." What are the "little foxes" that ruin your thoughts, actions, and relationships? Finally, keep in mind that conflicts (bad things) help us mature spiritually so we can persevere through difficulties (James 1:2-4). When you are able to see these minor irritations as a way of refining you into a sharper spiritual instrument, thank God and celebrate because you have broken the cycle and overcome

the negative progression.

I am devastated that my girlfriend aborted our child without my knowledge. I'll never get over it. Where can I turn for help?

You are grieving your loss, and that is a powerful emotion. Your statement, "I'll never get over it," indicates the depth of your grief. We often think only of the mother in this situation, but in some instances the father is also deeply affected by the decision to end a pregnancy with an abortion. Overcoming grief takes time. There are no shortcuts, and the time frame varies from person to person. If you cannot talk through this grief with your girlfriend or your parents, talk with your pastor or a Christian counselor. A counselor at a crisis pregnancy center is another good resource. If you have a good friend who will listen without trying to solve the problem for you, talk with him/her. Lastly, recall the words of Jesus in Matt. 5:4 (NIV), "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Letters to the editor

What is our stance?

Editor:

Where have all the Christians gone and what do Christians stand for or against? Do they speak out for Christ or keep quiet and hope no one knows they are Christians?

Why is God's day not kept holy? "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," says the Bible. This includes not shopping on God's day. If Christians would stay out of the stores on God's day, the stores would be forced to close.

Why are pre-teens and teenagers committing murder without remorse? Young people are growing up without being taught the Ten Commandments and many do not even know what they are. We have taken the Bible out of our schools and given out condoms instead of teaching abstinence (moral purity)

The Scarlet Lady, by Carol Everett (who worked in an abortion clinic) explains how painful abortion is to a baby. Many women die as a result of abortion and many others are never able to have another baby. Some aborted babies are sold for experiment purposes. The Bible says, "Six things

God hates" and one of those is "hands that shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6:16-17).

The shed blood of one and a half million innocent babies a year from abortion cries to God. The land is polluted with their blood. The wrath of God is turning on our country.

If we as Christians do not obey God and use our freedom to preserve our freedom, we will lose what little freedom we have left. We need to vote for the person and what he stands for and not for the party just because that is the party we have always voted for.

Will Christians turn back to God and begin obeying the Ten Commandments? Either we are for God or we are against him. We cannot be indifferent. We must choose whom we will serve!

Peggy Wicker
McComb

Don't play God

Editor:

Jesus told 11 of his disciples that it would have "been good" for Judas Iscariot if he had not been born. The alternatives to being born are:

- "An untimely (still-born) birth" (Job 3:16);
- "An untimely (miscarried) birth" (Psalm 58:8);
- "An untimely (aborted) birth" (Eccl. 6:3).

Would the writer (name withheld) of [the] "Abortion apathy" [letter] dare say Jesus lied? Either of the three alternatives to being born (not to being conceived) would have meant that Judas Iscariot's soul would be in heaven right now instead of being in hell.

Anybody who advises for or against abortion is trying to play God, for only God knows the end of everybody even before conception. In God's eyes, abortion is "better" than a long life with no good in the soul (Eccl. 6:3).

Delfa Roberts
Olive Branch

Editor's Note: Believing that the Bible clearly teaches that no one may shed another person's blood because God created mankind in his own image, we should reject abortion as an answer to unwanted pregnancy. It appears that an unwarranted conclusion has been drawn from these Scriptures.

Bibles for China

Editor:

Thank you for including in **The Baptist Record** (Nov. 2, 1995, issue) the article from the American Bible Society. With information from the ABS, our third- and fourth-grade Sunday School class was able to donate \$48 in eight weeks for "Bibles for China."

Ellen Ricks, teacher
Ashley Jayne King
Jay Ricks
Laura M. Blount
Chris Daves
Christopher Martin
Kelly Smith
North Carrollton Church
North Carrollton

Kudos for Kelley

Editor:

As president of the national alumni association for New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), I would like to commend the search committee and the trustees for selecting Chuck Kelley as the new president. Chuck has already made a great contribution to the seminary as a professor.

Landrum Leavell literally poured 20 years of his life into the institution and left it much better than he found it. I believe Chuck Kelley is the man to take our alma mater into the next century.

NOBTS has a close link with Mississippi Baptists because of its

location. I would like to commend the School of Providence and Prayer to all ministers who are looking to further their education. I would encourage all alumni to get behind Chuck in their prayers and moral support.

I shall always be grateful for the contribution that the administration and faculty made in my life at NOBTS.

Rex Yancey
Pascagoula

Joined Disney boycott

Editor:

Maranatha Church, Mt. Olive, voted to urge its members to participate in the boycott of Disney theme parks and Disney products. At a March 3 business meeting, the members of the church voted to encourage members to join the boycott recently called for by the Florida Baptist Convention and the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The boycott is to protest "the annual Gay and Lesbian Day," scheduled for May 30-June 3, 1996. In addition, Disney is now promoting alcohol use and gambling on cruises and theme park vacation packages.

Sidney Davis, pastor
Maranatha Church
Mt. Olive

Editor's Note: Excellent. Actually, the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission said it "urged members and churches to reconsider support of any Disney business enterprise... and to prayerfully consider whether to purchase Disney-related products and services of any kind."

Rejects pre-destiny

Editor:

I am a 1974 SBC convert, from a Hyper-Calvinist Baptist background, "thoroughly trained" in the "Five Cardinal Points" taught as Scripture by their preachers. My early perception, that they were so enamored of that doctrine and were almost willing to follow the precedence of its originators, still holds.

The act that John Calvin's extreme "Metaphysical Thinking" apparently led to do in his later years, and the conduct of the participants in the "Synod of Dort," lead me to believe that John 16:2, "... The time is coming that whoever kills you will think he offers God service," is applicable. This was literally fulfilled in the execution of Michael Servetus, orchestrated by Calvin, and the execution of "Remonstrator" Olden Barneveldt just prior to the Synod of Dort. I iterate that I was led to reject this "pre-destination" doctrine, in at least three of the five cardinal points, long before I ever heard of their origin or the originators! These things, in the name of God, are so repulsive that I now feel vindicated, as such beginnings

alone are more than adequate grounds for rejecting a more reasonable interpretation of God's will.

Scriptures such as Jesus' agony over Jerusalem's inhabitants, his 99 parables, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, etc., are core Baptist doctrines. Pre-selection doctrines are rooted in God's selection of Israel as his people. Please note that even then only a "remnant" chose to accept his election, re-enforcing the doctrine of free choice emphasized by Joshua in his farewell speech, "Choose you this day whom you will serve..."

I feel that Jerry Vines was on target in his "over-educated" analysis of this doctrine, causing me to propose this final thought. Since the "Hyper-Calvinism" adherents who participated with our more conservative brothers such as Vines in the SBC takeover, are now coming out of the closet, the scenario cries for a Baptist fight that historian Walter Shurden couldn't describe in a sequel to his classic **Not a Silent People!**

Donald R. Windham
Bay Springs

Be informed, then act

Editor:

It was good to read the [guest] editorial by Tom Strode (Feb. 29 issue) giving attention to Christians who are suffering for their faith. Their plight must be given more attention because the Bible says, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it..." (1 Cor. 12:26a, NIV).

Since we are a part of the body of Christ it would be wrong to insulate ourselves from those who are suffering. Instead we should become informed and take action on behalf of those who are paying dearly for their faith in Christ. We should begin by praying for them.

Two good sources of information are **Operation World** by Patrick Johnstone and **Open Doors Newbrief**, a publication of Open Doors, an organization that has been ministering to persecuted Christians for 40 years.

Bill Barrett
Lexington



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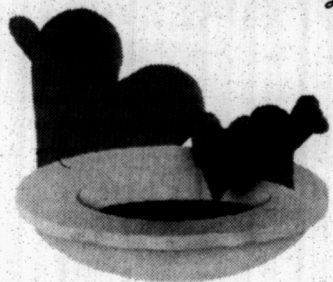
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Staff Changes

Pope Church, Panola Association, has called **Jimmy Bryant** as pastor. He previously served South Summerville Church in Summerville, Ga. He and his wife Esther have two sons and three grandchildren.

Phil Jones has accepted the position of associate pastor in music ministries at **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, effective March 10. He is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Seminary. After seminary, Jones served Birchman Avenue Church, Fort Worth, and Prince Avenue Church, Athens, Ga. He and his wife have five children.



Jones

Glen Johnson has been called as pastor of **Temple Church, Tupelo**, effective Feb. 1. He and his wife have three children.

Gene Jordan has been called as pastor of **Gunter Road Church, Florence**, where he has served as interim pastor since October 1995. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and Mississippi College. A native of Birmingham, Jordan has served as youth minister at First Church, Morton, and McDowell Road Church, Jackson, and as pastor of New Haven Church, Terry.

Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, has called **Sid Johnson** as minister of music and education, effective March 3. A native of Virginia, Johnson received his education at Livingston University, Livingston, Ala., and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Wildwood Church, Clinton.



Johnson

Joel Farrow was called as pastor of **Ford's Creek Church, Pearl River Association**, on Feb. 11. He is a graduate of Auburn University and presently attends New Orleans Seminary, working on a master of divinity in language degree. He previously served as evangelism intern for First Church, New Orleans. He and his wife are the parents of two children.



Farrow

Johnson Creek Church, Greene Association, has called **William J. Harris** as pastor, effective Feb. 18. A native of Louisiana, Harris received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as an evangelist, and the past two years served in mission work in Dominica.

Revival Dates

Union, Plantersville: March 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Raymond Clayton, music; Paul Wilson, evangelist.

First Church, Byhalia: March 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; John Mahony, evangelist; Keith Stevens, music; Glenn E. Bien, pastor.

First, Calhoun City: March 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Joe McKeever, Kenner, La., evangelist; David Prevost, Tupelo, music; Anthony Kay, pastor.

First, Yazoo City: March 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m. service preceded by a youth pizza supper; Mon. and Tues., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jerry Drace, Humboldt, Tenn., evangelist; Ken and Lois Holland, Franklin, Tenn., music; David Raddin, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: March 21-24; services, 7 p.m.; Guy Henderson, Clinton, former missionary and now editor of **The Baptist Record**, evangelist; Lita Moore, Carthage, music; William Wright, pastor.

East Mt. Zion, Baldwin: March 24-29; 7 p.m. nightly; Charles Smith, Thrasher, evangelist; Gerald Waldrip, Randolph, music; Gerald Cagle, pastor.

Fellowship, Mathiston: March 24-27; 7 p.m. nightly; Steve Bain, Tupelo, evangelist; Susan Alford, Fellowship Church, music; Ralph Cain, pastor.

Fellowship (Lauderdale): March 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and

6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Smith, evangelist; Charles Henson, music; David Grumbach, pastor.

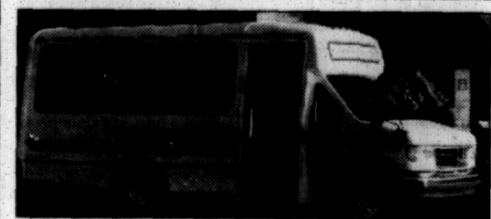
Woodville Heights, Jackson: March 24-27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheon service and 7 p.m.; Jim

Ponder, evangelist; Simeon Nix, music; Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.

Faith, Hickory Flat: March 24-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Billy Dowdy, Carriere, evangelist; W.G. (Bill) Dowdy, pastor.



The Mississippi College School of Business has formed an advisory group of alumni to provide input into current and future programs of the school. The group recently held its first meeting on campus. Alumni who participated are (from left): front row, Jeff Blakely, New York, N.Y., Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; Marty Longmire, Crosby, Longmire Gravel; Beth V. Fisher, Jackson, Trustmark National Bank; Dana Britt, Clinton, Deviney Company; Janice Baddley, Clinton, Methodist Medical Center; Scottie Putnam, Yazoo City, Delta T.V.; Bennie Hughes, Clinton, State Farm Insurance; second row, Tony Greer, Clinton, Greer Real Estate Management; Chip Wilbanks, Jackson, Dogan & Wilkinson; Art Stevens, Hazlehurst, Trustmark National Bank; Colin Maloney, Tupelo, Creative Glass; Tony Stringer, Tylertown, Stringer Industries; Steve Davis, Benton, Mississippi Plastic Molders; third row, Michael Howard, Laurel, Howard Industries; Tony Huffman, Jackson, Huffman & Associates; Chris Burgess, Kosciusko, Merchants & Farmers Bank; Brooks Warren, Brookhaven, LDDS World Com; Joe Hegi, Madison, Miller Transporters; Lee Miller, Madison, Miller Transporters. Not pictured is Richard Wilson, Philadelphia, Merchants & Farmers Bank.



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Missionary News

Kenneth and Lynn Baker, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are on the field (address: Mission Baptiste Meridiona, BP 534, Abengourou, Ivory Coast). He was born in Booneville, and considers St. Augustine, Fla., his hometown. The former Lynn Powell of North Carolina, she was born in Morganton and considers Asheville her hometown.

Burton and Suzanne Schmitz, missionaries to Togo, have arrived in France for language study (address: 133, rue Lakanal, 37000 Tours, France). He was born in Ancon, Panama, and considers Carrollton his hometown. She is the former Suzanne Burgence of San Diego, Calif.

Hugh and Brenda Provost, Baptist representatives to Middle East, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 835, 6307 Larnaca, Cyprus). He was born in Jonesboro, Ark., and grew up in Belzoni, and in Lepanto, Hughes, Harrisburg, and West Memphis, Ark. She is the former Brenda Bryles of Pine Bluff, Ark.

Tom and Hazel Barron, Southern Asia and Pacific itinerant missionaries, are on the field (address: Kotak Pos 1003, Manado 95001, SULUT, Indonesia). He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton. She is the former Hazel Clark of Richton.

Thomas and Tammy Fox, Baptist representatives to the Western Republics, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: UEC Baptists of Ukraine, 3-a, L. Tolstogo St., Kiev, 4, 252004, Ukraine). He was born in Pascagoula, and considers Moundville, W.Va., his hometown. She is the former Tammy Mueller of Moundville.

Todd and Lesley Free, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Rua Barbosa da Cunha, 138, Jd. Guanabara, 13.073-320 Campinas, SP, Brazil). He was born in Longview, Texas. The former Lesley Laird, she was born in Vicksburg. Both consider Delhi, La., their hometown.

Kenneth and Christine Mauldin, missionary associates to Guyana, are on the field (address: 124 DeWille South, West Coast Demerara, Guyana, South America). He was born in Fairfield, Ala., and considers Columbus, Ga., his hometown. The former Christine Works, she was born in Amory, and considers Columbus, Ga., her hometown.

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Just for the Record



Fifth and Sixth Grade Sunday School Department, East McComb Church, McComb, presented a check for \$971.68 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to Ricky E. Kennedy, pastor. Joyce Gatlin (far left) is department director. Funds came from children's personal donations and fund-raising activities.

Parkway Church, Natchez, will hold a Divorce Recovery Workshop on March 30 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Mark Foley, a licensed professional counselor from New Orleans. The fee is \$10 and covers meals, resources, and preschool care. For more information call Kevin Hurt at (601) 442-7434.

Country Woods Church, Jackson, will dedicate its new Family Life Center on March 31. Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the featured speaker for the 11 a.m. service. There will be a covered dish lunch following the service and an open house from 4-5:30 p.m. Edward L. Mahaffey is pastor, and Susan Heiden is minister of students and activities. For more information, call (601) 371-7955.

The Brotherhood Commission, through its partnership with

the Foreign Mission Board, is cooperatively recruiting 75 teachers to serve in an English immersion program between July and August in China. The Teachers to China '96 project is an intensive language immersion program with a primary focus in conversational English. Be a part of this exciting missions opportunity to share Christ with the students of China. Call (901) 272-2461 or (800) 280-1891 for more information.

First Church, Itta Bena, has produced a history of the church for its centennial celebration. More than 20 young people have come from this church to work as pastors, teachers, and missionaries. Higdon Herrington is pastor.

First Church, Fannin, will sponsor a craft show, March 30. Baked goods and car wash will also be available. Proceeds will benefit the battered women and children's shelter. For more information, call Margaret Henderson at (601) 949-5590 (work) or 829-1723 (home).

Mississippi Baptists have contributed to **First Church of Stockton, Ill.,** through the ministry of two former Mississippi pastors. Robin Jumper of New Albany, pastored Little Bahala Church, Wesson, and Wellman Church, Boguè Chitto, before going to Stockton to serve three years. The present pastor, Jimmy Coleman, formerly of Kosciusko, Bond Church, Bond, and Riverside Church, Long Beach. Future plans include the starting of a mission church in Galena, Ill., the county's largest town and the center of tourist attractions.

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The Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will meet in New Orleans, June 11 at noon. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Jeanette Henry, wife of SBC president Jim Henry, will be the speaker. Tickets (\$18) can be ordered from Betty Jean Billingsley, Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, 3751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021.

Robinhood Church, Brandon, recently provided a 12' X 12' storage house for its pastor Don Nerren, in appreciation for his service to the church. A group of men constructed the building in one day; women of the church provided lunch.

Carmel Church, Monticello, will honor Robert L. Dunn, pastor emeritus, on March 17. Dunn grew up in the Carmel Community and was called into the ministry from Carmel Church. He served churches in Mississippi and Alabama during his ministry and from 1977 to 1987 he served as pastor of Carmel Church. Following his pastorate at Carmel Church, he served the Dublin Church, Carson. Services on "Robert L. Dunn Day" will include 11 a.m. services with Dunn bringing the message, dinner in fellowship hall, and an afternoon service. Ted Bowlin is pastor.



Dunn



Rex Yancey (left), pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, burns the final note on a \$1.4 million education addition (1987). The \$525,000 note was for 15 years and was paid off in nine years. It was down to \$98,000 earlier this year when two deceased members willed enough funds to pay it off and to start a future building program. Pictured with Yancey are Ted Brown, chairman of deacons; Mary Kitchens, chairman of finance committee; Ron Ellzey, chairman of challenge to build committee, and Mitch McNabb, chairman of building committee.



Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis, recently held a recognition service for its GAs. They are (from left): front row, Hanna Morgan, Hailey Reeves, Nikki Hill; second row, Jessie Morgan, Leah Pitts, Audrey Shaw, Jenna Harrington; back row, Ellen Shaw and Mae Morgan, GA leaders.

other informational sessions. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 1-800-738-1236.

Bob Scott and the Sweet Spirit Singers will be at Cranfield Church, Roxie, on March 17 at 1 p.m.

The Master's Quartet, Booneville, will be the featured guests for the quarterly singing at Calvary Church, Durant, on March 16 at 7 p.m.

Cloverdale Church, Natchez, received \$4,840 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. This was the largest amount contributed so far, and exceeded the goal of \$4,000. Ida Mae Coley is WMU director. David McGuffee is pastor.

A sanctuary dedication cere-

mony for **South Side Church, Meridian,** will be held on March 31 at 2 p.m. Wayne E. Riley is pastor.

First Church, Booneville, will present the Easter music and drama "The Highest Place" on March 31 and April 1 at 7 p.m. The music is composed by David Clydesdale. This presentation will describe the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the last days of his life. Jesus's death and resurrection will be portrayed. In addition to the choir — who constitute the crowd surrounding Jesus — youths, children, and other adult members of the congregation will act out Jesus' healing, compassion for children, arrest, and resurrection. The Lord's Supper will be served. For more information, call (601) 728-6272.

The Home Mission Board's national resort ministries conference will be held April 20-24 in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Sponsored by the board's Special Ministries Department, the conference event offers encouragement and training for Christian ministries in resort and leisure settings, said Bill Lee, HMB special ministries director. More information about the conference is available from the Home Mission Board at (770) 410-6431.

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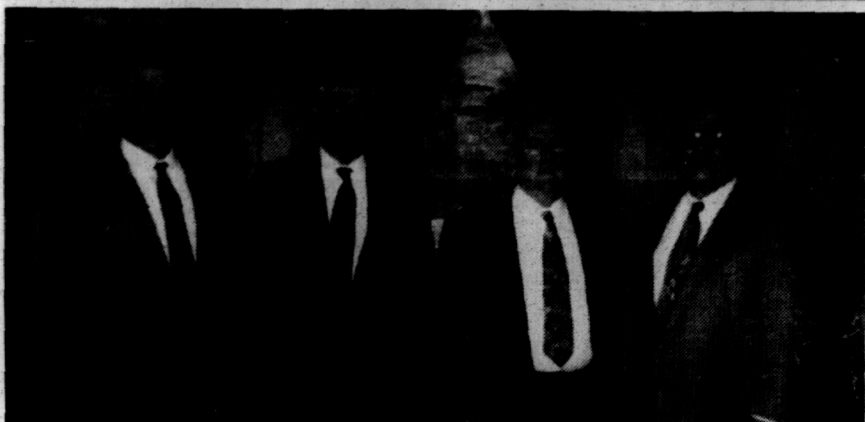
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Names in the News



Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville, ordained new deacons Feb. 18. Ken Rhodes, director of missions, Pearl River Association, gave the ordination sermon. New deacons are Randy Ladner, Jimmy Smith, and Henry Mut pictured with Rhodes at far right. Joel Farrow is pastor.

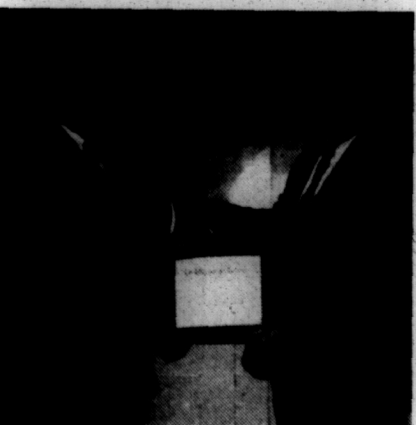


Jason Newell (left) and **Dennis Ellingburg** (right) were licensed to the ministry on Feb. 7 by Leesburg Church, Rankin County. Newell is a senior at Pearl High School and Ellingburg is a freshman at Mississippi College. Odus Jackson (center) is pastor.



Mississippi College recently held its Evangelism Lectureship week emphasis, featuring **James Barnette**, minister to the University at Samford University in Birmingham. Barnette provided a presentation to students during chapel services and an evening lecture.

Syble Finley Johnson was presented a plaque for serving 60 years as a Sunday School teacher at Sebastopol Church, Scott Association. Pictured with Johnson is Otis Wolverton, Sunday School director. David E. Sartin is pastor.



David Jordan (left) was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by New Hope Church, Ashland. Jimmy Curle (right) presented the certificate. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Jordan is currently pursuing his master of divinity degree. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 55, Ashland, MS 38603; telephone (601) 224-8248.

Sandra Burge Harvey, a senior elementary education major at William Carey College, received the 1995 Mississippi Professional Educators Journal Scholarship Award recently. Harvey, of Purvis, was one of nine outstanding education majors from across the state to receive the \$500 award.

Mary Dee Hicks, 77, died March 2 of heart failure at Manhattan Health Care Center, Jackson. She was the widow of Eldie Hicks who pastored First Church, Magee, and First Church, Waynesboro. Survivors include a daughter, Johnny Kay Ransdell, Houston, Texas; son, Amp Frank Hicks, Clinton; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — **David P. Gushee**, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will join the Christian studies faculty at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., this fall. Gushee also serves as the seminary's acting associate dean of the school of theology and acting director of professional studies.

Ivo Wilson Jr., 52, of Montgomery, Ala., died Oct. 25, 1995. He was pastor of Mitts Chapel Church, Montgomery. He was a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary, and a former employee

of the Baptist Book Store in Jackson. He was a former pastor of Beat Line Church, Conehatta, and Vardaman Church, Philadelphia. Wilson is survived by his wife Jane, mother Laslie Livingston, daughter Dianne Bullard, and son Dan, all of Montgomery; three sisters, three brothers; and a granddaughter.

Horace Thomas retired from Oak Hill Church, Union Association, after serving 42 years in the pastorate. Other churches he served were New Harmony, Wallerville; Belden, Tupelo; Trinity, Fulton; Immanuel, Greenwood; Shiloh and Brush Creek, Alcorn Association; and Springdale and Fellowship, Tippah County. During his ministry he was active in associational work, served as a Sunday School ASSIST director, and as a volunteer conference leader for the MBCB Sunday School Department. His son Gregg is pastor of Handsboro Church, Gulfport. Thomas is available for pulpit supply, revivals, Bible studies, and interim pastorate. He can be reached at 1312 CR 278, New Albany, MS; telephone (601) 534-9609/0648.



Thomas

Words of reflection

By J. Hardee Kennedy

The older I get the smaller I am, the less I eat, the shorter my reach, the slower my reflexes, the dimmer my eyesight, the duller my hearing, the thinner my hair, the weaker my voice, the shakier my hands, and the poorer my equilibrium.

But, the older I get the less hurried I am, the more at peace with myself I become, the larger sense of history I gain, the richer store of precious memories I possess, the greater appreciation of true friendship I have, the sweeter fellowship in prayer and Bible study I experience, the deeper love for my wife and my family members I know, and the surer hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ I can affirm.

Kennedy will turn 80 on June 12. These 80 years have been filled with integrity and commitment. He was vice president for Academic Affairs at New Orleans Seminary, where he had taught for 37 years. He continues to lead Bible conferences and teaches a Sunday School class. He is of a "rare breed," and it's always a pleasure to know one.

— Editor

Mississippian Moseley, exec in Northwest, dies

EUGENE, Ore. (BP) — A former executive secretary of the Northwest Convention, **Fred B. Moseley**, died Feb. 27 following heart surgery. He was 78.

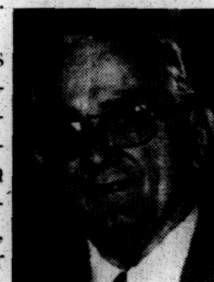
Moseley was executive secretary from 1962-64 of the General Convention of Oregon-Washington, which later became the Northwest Convention. He was living in Eugene, Ore., at the time of his death.

A native of Gloster, Moseley

had a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and master's and doctorate degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor of First Church, Lucedale, from 1946-49, and was that church's Pastor Emeritus.

Moseley established the School of Church Training at New Orleans Seminary in 1976, and served as its director until his retirement in 1980. He also served as associate executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

Moseley is survived by his wife Gay; three sons, John, of Eugene, David, of Ellensburg, Wash., and Fred B. Jr., of Amherst, Mass.; a sister, and six grandchildren.



Moseley

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The first will be last



By David Mitchell
Matthew 20

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is one of the most beautiful parables of Jesus. It is also one of the most arresting because it proclaims the grace of the God who brings the kingdom. The grace of God is the theme of Matthew 20.

D.S. Carnes once said, "Think of grace as the most extravagant goodness of God." This parable invites the scribes, the Pharisees, and readers throughout all history to do exactly that. There is no doubt that the scribes and the Pharisees were the targets of this parable when it was first spoken because they had criticized Jesus for teaching that God would receive sinners. They felt only those such as themselves who had kept the Law scrupulously for a long period of time deserved God's rewards. The parable helps us understand that God cannot give only a fraction of his love — he must and does give it all.

Workers hired (vv. 1-7). The picture is one of harvest time, and Jesus painted a story with word pictures that were familiar to those in his original audience: A farmer was gathering the harvest in his vineyard and hired laborers to help. Each worker hired was promised fair pay.

The denarius was a standard minimum day's wage, so the landowner's promise was entirely fair. It was the denarius that the laborers in verse 2 agreed to work an entire day to receive. Seeing that more work needed to be done, the landowner went to the market place at 9 a.m. and found others who would come to work, promising to pay them "whatever is right." The farmer went out (v. 5) at noon and again at 3 p.m. to hire more workers. With only one hour of the working day left, the farmer hired yet another group of workers at 5 p.m. All of the workers — with the exception of the first group — would have expected the appropriate fractional percentage of a day's wage. But the farmer never specified his commitment. He only committed to what was right.

Workers paid (vv. 8-10). The Jewish law required that workers be paid at the end of each workday. At about 6 p.m. the landowner instructed his steward to pay the workers. He began by paying those he called last, and ended by paying those he called first. The first group of workers did not receive what they expected, but 12 times more than they expected. Naturally, the other workers began to anticipate that they would receive similar increases.

Workers complain (vv. 11-12). Those who had worked all day complained to the landlord when they received the same pay as those who worked only one hour. The landowner had kept his part of the bargain, which they could not deny. He had paid them exactly what he had promised, but they were jealous that those who had worked so little had been paid so much. They were angry because they had not received a bonus.

Workers' complaints answered (vv. 13-15). The owner reminded one of the complainers that because he was the owner he could spend his money as he chose, and he chose to be generous with all his workers. The farmer chose to reward his workers according to need rather than what they deserved.

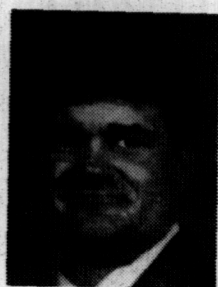
Jesus applied the parable to life (v. 16). The purpose of the parable in Chapter 20 was to answer the question which concluded Chapter 19: "But many who are first will be last and the last will be first." The parable helps us understand that God treats no one unfairly. God offers more grace to everyone than they deserve.

The ultimate teaching is that in God's perspective, all disciples are equal. The last will be first and the first will be last. It is hard for us to understand that the same grace is afforded us as to the martyr who offers his life as a living sacrifice for God's kingdom. Amazingly, those who are called to make nominal sacrifices will receive the same measure of grace as those who may pay a high price for the grace of Christianity. The rewards of the kingdom are measured by God's grace, not man's standards. To be sure, every Christian will have a unique experience before God on Judgment Day. Whatever is received will be grace beyond what is deserved. Thankfully, God does not and will not deal, as T.W. Manson said, "on the basis of strict justice and sound economics."

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book

Paul's solemn charge



By Clayton Littlejohn
2 Timothy 3, 4

Paul's charge and example to Timothy teaches that Christians can encourage others to be faithful in carrying out God's plan for their lives. In this lesson, Paul lists ways to overcome obstacles in carrying out God's plan for the Christian life.

An example (3:10-17). Paul's wonderful ministry was winding down, and he fully expected to lose his life for the testimony of Jesus Christ (4:6-8). In his closing letter, he encouraged his young son in the faith to remain faithful to Christ when the difficult times came, and to remember the example he had set in facing the tribulations ahead.

In the previous verses (1-9), Paul explained what the last days will be like; because man is so selfish and evil, the righteous will experience much persecution. Notice the way we Christians are to live and respond in these last days. We are to be "long-suffering," which means to remain patient in our relationships with the lost. We must have charity, which is love. Our love for Christ will bring us to love the lost in spite of their sins, which leads to "patience," that will continue to exhibit godliness in spite of circumstances or consequences.

Timothy remembered Paul's godly example when he had been stoned at Lystra, chased out of Antioch, and physically threatened in Iconium (Acts 13:13-14:20). One of the identifying marks of a Christian is that they suffer persecution for their godliness (v. 12). This has been a badge of godliness throughout history, and is to be expected of all believers.

Timothy was blessed to have Paul as an example, but he had also had the example of his mother and grandmother, who taught him Scriptures as a child. Heaven alone will reveal the impact of how vital it is to teach Scriptures in the home. I am so thankful for my mother, who made sure we were in Sunday School and who taught us the Scriptures in our home.

In verse 16, Paul tells us that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," which means that it is "God-breathed." This sets the Bible apart from any other book. By being God-breathed, it is alive (Heb. 4:12) and no other secular or religious book can make that claim. Because of this fact, it can "reproof [convict], correct, and instruct in righteousness," so that every Christian may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (v. 17). Paul gave the example by his life; God gives the means by his Word.

A charge (4:1-5). Paul now gave Timothy a charge to preach the Word. God has chosen the foolishness of preaching to save the lost (1 Cor. 1:21). The charge is serious because Christ will judge the lost according to his Word (v. 1). Timothy is to be prepared to preach at all times (v. 2). Paul said, "Preach the Word," knowing there will always be those who preach something other than God's Word to those who want their ears tickled. For Timothy, this would bring on more persecution, so Paul warns, "watch... endure... and evangelize..." (v. 5). We are not all called to preach, but we are all called to evangelize. We must always be prepared to share God's Word.

An affirmation (4:6-8). Paul's attitude in death was one truly worth emulating. First, he was ready to die. To the Christian, death is just the door we go through to be with Jesus. What a powerful testimony this is: Paul didn't cry, scream, or fight. He gladly welcomed death — to him it was gain (Phil. 1:21). What an impression this attitude would have on lost people who watch a saint die with confidence in the Savior!

Second, Paul held this attitude because he had done what God asked him to do: Fought the good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith (v. 7).

Third, Paul now would receive his crown or reward (v. 8). Paul used his life and death to affirm all he told young Timothy. Paul loved Timothy and desired to see him before he died. In case he didn't, he used his life and death to encourage him and us to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work

Relating to God, others



By Linda Donnell
Matthew 7

How many times have you been guilty of some grave misjudgment? Conversely, how many times have you suffered from someone else's misjudgment? We continually make mistakes in our everyday lives — some consciously, many subconsciously. They are in fact a necessary part of life. But there is always danger in making false appraisals. When we consider that these judgments determine how we relate to other people, we would do well to study and apply the principles offered by Jesus to his disciples in regard to human relations.

Relating to other believers (vv. 1-5). Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (v. 1). He did not mean that we are never to judge, but certainly he intended that assessments not be made in a critical, condemning way. It is at this point that judging becomes wrong.

The second verse issues a serious consequence of passing judgment on others: "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged." We will receive exactly what we give. If this is true, why do we continually make this mistake? Quick and harsh judgments tend to come from the heart that is not full of love and because all the facts and circumstances are not known. As Christians, seeing through the eyes of love, we will recognize that in every doubtful situation there are factors which may not appear on the surface. There is a stone called Labrador spar which, at first glance is dull and unattractive to the eye. But, if turned round and round and positioned just right in the light, it becomes an object of sparkling beauty.

People are like this stone. Perhaps the major reason for not measuring others is that no human is good enough. The faults that we see in others may be small and insignificant compared with our own sins of pride or self-righteousness.

Relating to hostile unbelievers (v. 6). At first glance, this verse seems to be contradictory to verse one. But Jesus is letting the disciples know that they must exercise discernment if they are able to minister to others. There are some people who are not psychologically or spiritually capable of accepting Christ. Something must happen within their hearts before the gospel can have any meaning to them. Until that time, it is useless to argue. Should these people just be forgotten and given up as lost? We may not be able to tell the good news, but we may be able to show them the gospel through our lives.

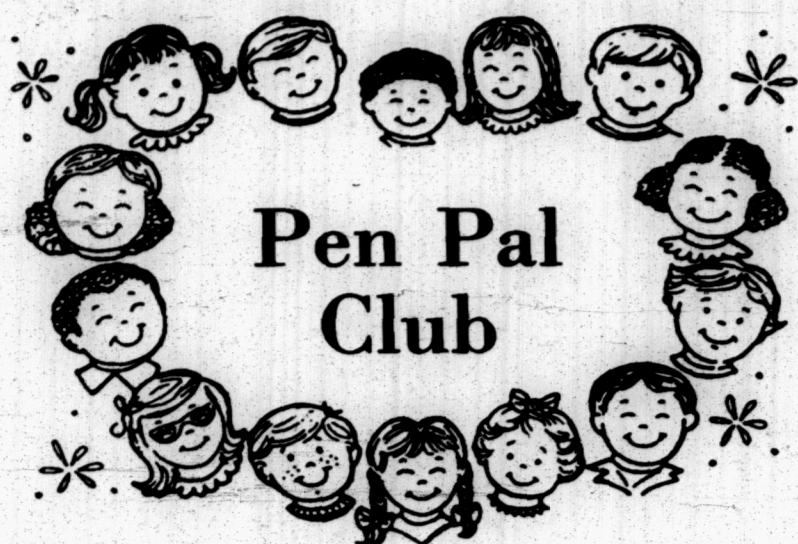
Relating to the heavenly Father (vv. 7-11). These verses may seem out of place with the remainder of the Scripture, but how we relate to God certainly affects how we relate to others. An important part of Jesus' counsel is "ask, seek, and knock." These Greek words are used in the present tense in the original text, denoting continuing action. We are to be persistent in our prayer life, not to badger God into giving us our way, but rather to stay in relationship with him. The important part is in the seeking, not the getting.

Relating to all people (v. 12). After encouraging his followers to experience prayer, Jesus calls them to a high test: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Certainly one could not live out these words without God in his heart and life.

It is not difficult to find parallels to this saying, but all are in the negative form. The "Golden Rule" takes us to a much higher plain. Stated in the positive, this teaching offered a new view of life and of life's obligations. It demands a denial of self and compels us to live our lives in service to others. It teaches us to see others as persons to be loved and helped, not as objects to be used for selfish ends. The negative form of this rule involves nothing more than not doing certain things. It could even be satisfied by simple inaction. A goodness which consists in doing nothing is certainly a contradiction of the teachings of Christ.

What would we like for others to do for us? Jesus' response would be: "Do not wait for them to do it to you. Do it to them first." How different this world would be if all Christians lived out this principle!

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kayla Essary. I am 9 years old and I am in fourth grade. My hobbies are swimming, softball, and singing. I also love acting in plays. One day I would like to be a movie star. I would like a boy or girl to write me back. Please send a picture of you.

Rt. 8, Box 415
Corinth 38834

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Heather Cook. I am 12 and my birthday is Oct. 4. I am in the sixth grade at Parklane Academy in McComb. My hobbies are swimming, reading, writing letters, playing with my pets, and most of all hunting and fishing. I have two dogs, two calves, and three fish. I also have a little brother and sister.

I go to church at Robinson Church in Liberty. I don't care if

c/o Robinson Baptist Church
3604 Everett Bridge Road
Liberty, MS 39645

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Beth Davis. I am 11-1/2 and in sixth grade. I am a member of Wesson Church. My hobbies are watching TV, talking to friends, reading, and writing letters. I have a dog, Butterscup, and two cats, Dishrag and Banshee. I would prefer a boy or girl 12 or older. Please send me a picture if you have one.

P.O. Box 632
Wesson 39191

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Melanie Lea. I am 7 years old. I like to ride

bikes. I go to Union Academy, and the church that I go to is New Zion Church. I like GAS. My favorite animal is rabbits. I like tacos.

c/o New Zion Baptist Church
Star Rt., Box 48
Braxton, MS 39044

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Mindra Bennett. I will be 7 in April. I attend Bruce Elementary School. My brother is going to be 13 in March. I just got a brand-new wheelchair. I like to have tea parties. I would like to have a pen pal. I am a PK (Preacher's Kid). Please write me:

c/o Rt. 1, Box 450
Bruce, MS 38915

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Heather Coleman. I am 9 years old and in the fourth grade. I attend First Faith Church. I have four cats named Midnight, Tiger, and Bob-Bob. Please send a picture of yourself. I would like many girls to write me:

c/o First Faith Baptist Church
Rt. 4, Box 170B
Batesville, MS 38606

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is DeAnna Tagert. I am 11 years old and am in the fifth grade. I go to Rehobeth Church and my father is the preacher. I go to school at Morton Christian Academy. My hobbies are collecting snowballs, cheering, playing basketball and football. I have also taken dance for eight years. I don't care if you are a boy or a girl. Please send your picture and I will send you mine.

446 Rehobeth Road
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Easter: April 7

• Read the resurrection story in your Bible.

• Fill in the missing word in each sentence.

• Answer all seven questions.

• Go to the puzzle box.

• Place an 'X' through the letters that spell the answers.

• When you have crossed out all the answers in the puzzle box, write the remaining letters from left to right, line by line, on the blanks under the box.

• The message you spell with these words will answer the question asked at the top of the puzzle.

Taken from *Fun Stuff for Kids* — 4th-6th Grades, by Michael Streff (Zondervan Publishing House, 1990), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Answers: TOMB, STONE, SNOW, AFFRAID, QUICKLY, JESUS, PLAN
"He has risen from the dead"

THE RESURRECTION

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE THE ANGEL HAD FOR MARY AT THE TOMB? MATTHEW 28:1-15

- 1) THE TWO MARYS WENT TO LOOK AT JESUS' ____ V.1
- 2) AN ANGEL OF THE LORD HAD ROLLED THE ____ AWAY. V.2
- 3) THE ANGEL HAD CLOTHES THAT WERE AS WHITE AS ____ V.3
- 4) THE ANGEL TOLD THE WOMEN NOT TO BE ____ V.5
- 5) THE ANGEL TOLD THEM TO GO ____ AND TELL THE DISCIPLES. V.7
- 6) SUDDENLY ____ MET THEM. V.9
- 7) THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS DEVISED A ____ TO EXPLAIN HOW JESUS HAD LEFT THE TOMB. V.12



Into foreign fashions

Third and fourth grade Girls in Action (GAs) of First Church, Gulfport, (at left) recently held a fashion show to benefit the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They raised \$32 by sewing their own fashions from Burkina Faso, their unit of study. GAs who participated (left to right) are: top row, Julie Finch, Laura Holleman, leader, Natalie Weaver; middle row, Megan Davis, Stacia Corey, Allie Peden; bottom, Jana Gilreath, Sarah-Gant Holleman, and Katie McCabe. Not pictured is Lynn Franklin, leader.



Christians in many countries call Easter Pascha. This word comes from the Hebrew word Pesah, which means Passover. Jesus was celebrating Passover shortly before he was

arrested and crucified.

Outstanding Crusader

Richard C. Pollard, 10-year-old son of Bill and Lynn Pollard of Clarksdale, was recently named "Outstanding Crusader" in recognition of his outstanding participation in the Royal Ambassador (RA) program at Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale.

In addition to participating in all regular RA activities — including the Pine Wood Derby race and the WorldWalk for three years, and the Walk-for-Life to benefit the North Delta Association's Crisis Pregnancy Center — he memorized more than 100 Scripture verses in 1995.

He has also received the RA bronze, silver, and gold medals, as well as two stars.

Richard a fourth grader, and raises pigs in the Coahoma County 4-H Program.

David Smith is Oakhurst RA leader; Tommy Tutor is pastor.



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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UDHULA AQU TJGW JS QJPAP QRW TUSA IBAJ IP
R OUGF PXRTT GUXBRBA, EU PQJITW QROU CUUB
RP PJWJX, RBW EU PQJITW QROU CUUB TVZU
IBAJ KJXJGGRQ.

VPRVRQ JBU: BVBU

This week's clue: A equals T.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea Five: Six.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 3-14
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

MARCH 14, 1996

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205